

Adopted by the House on May 4, 2017: Yeas 134, Nays 12, 3 present, not voting;
adopted by the Senate on May 24, 2017: Yeas 31, Nays 0.

Approved June 15, 2017.

H.C.R. No. 105**HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION**

WHEREAS, In recent years, the Gulf of Mexico has contained the highest total allowable catch of red snapper in decades, but in 2016, anglers experienced the shortest recreational fishing season to date, lasting less than two weeks; and

WHEREAS, The U.S. government has overseen the Gulf recreational red snapper fishery for nearly four decades; today, federal management systems attempt to regulate red snapper fishing by the pound with tools specifically designed to manage the commercial sector, despite the fact that federal data collection systems are incapable of accounting to such a level of specificity for recreational harvests; and

WHEREAS, The U.S. government has, moreover, neglected to use recent data to provide meaningful guidelines and requirements for a systematic reallocation of federal fisheries; except for minor adjustments to account for errors in its own data collection system, the Gulf red snapper fishery allocation is based on highly suspect data from 1979–1986 and has remained unchanged since 1991; and

WHEREAS, The federal government is currently promoting a management strategy to privatize the Gulf red snapper fishery; approximately 50 percent of the fishery is already held by private businesses, while another 20 percent has been designated to be sold; shares of this public resource have also been given away for free, based on a commercial operator's past catch history; and

WHEREAS, Because of extraordinarily remiss requirements in its conflict of interest guidelines, the federal fisheries management system allows commercial operators who already own red snapper shares or who may be gifted shares to serve on the Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council and to cast votes on issues that will result in direct financial benefit for them; and

WHEREAS, By creating a prohibitive environment for anglers and ethical issues among user groups and stakeholders, the U.S. government has proved itself incapable of properly managing red snapper fishing in the Gulf of Mexico, and all five states along the Gulf Coast have increasingly needed to implement regulations and seasons that are not consistent with the federal management plan; and

WHEREAS, Numerous studies, including some funded by NOAA Fisheries, indicate that the greatest economic engine in the Gulf reef fishery is the recreational angling sector, and federal control should be relinquished to the Gulf states, which depend most on this vital public resource; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the 85th Legislature of the State of Texas hereby encourage Congress to pass legislation or adopt policies allowing Texas to manage the Gulf of Mexico red snapper fishery out to 200 nautical miles; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That the Texas secretary of state forward official copies of this resolution to the president of the United States, to the president of the Senate and to the speaker of the House of Representatives of the United States Congress, and to all the members of the Texas delegation to Congress with the request that this resolution be entered in the Congressional Record as a memorial to the Congress of the United States of America.

Bonnen of Brazoria
Phelan
Bonnen of Galveston

RESOLUTIONS

H.C.R. 106

Adopted by the House on May 2, 2017: Yeas 136, Nays 1, 2 present, not voting; adopted by the Senate on May 19, 2017: Yeas 31, Nays 0.

Approved May 29, 2017.

H.C.R. No. 106

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, Texas has been the nation's top exporting state for the last 14 consecutive years, with an estimated \$650 billion in trade in 2015 alone; exports support some 1.6 million jobs and contribute over \$200 billion to the gross state product; and

WHEREAS, The Gulf Coast region of Texas plays a crucial role in the prosperity of the state, as it is home not only to the largest concentration of petrochemical manufacturing and refining facilities in the United States but also to the federal Strategic Petroleum Reserve and a vital supply of aviation jet fuel for military and commercial use; in addition, Texas ports along the Gulf Coast are integral to the chemical manufacturing industry and to both the state and national economies; and

WHEREAS, This Gulf Coast region, however, is vulnerable to major weather events, including intense hurricanes, which in the recent past have devastated area cities by causing significant loss of life, destroying residential and commercial property, damaging sensitive ecosystems, and weakening local economies; and

WHEREAS, In response to the havoc wreaked by Hurricanes Ike and Rita, researchers at the Center for Texas Beaches and Shores at Texas A&M University at Galveston designed the Coastal Spine; plans for implementing the structure have included consideration of scientific research, historical storm data, and existing systems; moreover, the environmental impact such an apparatus would have on the surrounding area and waterway is being vigorously evaluated, and the study is expected to be completed in the summer of 2017; and

WHEREAS, The Gulf Coast Community Protection and Recovery District, composed of Orange, Jefferson, Chambers, Harris, Galveston, and Brazoria Counties, was created by Governor Rick Perry in the aftermath of Hurricane Ike; its board, which represents more than 6.5 million residents who live in the upper Gulf Coast area, has determined that the Coastal Spine is the best method for protecting against storm surges along the Texas coast; the concept has also gained widespread support from residents, businesses, and elected officials throughout the coastal region; and

WHEREAS, The General Land Office of the State of Texas is committed to partnering with the United States Army Corps of Engineers to implement the construction of the Coastal Spine; and

WHEREAS, The Texas Legislature is committed to the creation of a special purpose district within the Gulf Coast Region in order to fund the ongoing operations and maintenance of any structures and facilities related to the Coastal Spine; and

WHEREAS, The potential benefits of the Coastal Spine are manifold, ranging from preserving life and property to spurring economic growth and cutting state expenses for disaster assistance, and it is necessary for the U.S. government to provide aid and support for further research, design, and construction of the coastal barrier; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the 85th Legislature of the State of Texas hereby express its support for the development and construction of a coastal barrier to protect the Gulf Coast region of Texas from storm surges; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That the Texas Legislature hereby urge the United States Congress to provide sufficient federal funding for the construction of the project; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That the Texas Legislature hereby urge the U.S. Congress to expedite the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers design and construction process; and, be it further